MARRIAGE CUSTOMS OF THE BABEMBA TRIBES

The tribe in question is that of the Babemba. The Babemba 101
have their own history, thus it is an important tribe. They claim to h 175
have come originally from the Lunda kingdom. It is well known that the Lunda, situated on the upper reaches of the Kasaï River, a tributary of the Congo, is one of the biggest and most powerful negro kingdoms of Africa. The Balunda established their rule over all the neighboring tribes, thus founding three big colonies which go by the name of Baluba. The first of these colonies was established at the source of the Zambezi River, partly in Portuguese Angola, partly in British Northern Rhodesia. This first colony was later conquered by the Matabeles who had originally come from Zululand. It took the name of Barotseland. The second Baluba colony was established further east between the Kasaï and Sankuru rivers, while the third of the Baluba colonies settled on the banks of the Lualaba, another tributary of the Congo. The Babemba (Baluba) came from this last colony.

Their migration took place about 200 years ago. The story 167
of this migration is one of the most impressive in history. The 175
exodus lasted for nearly ten years— the tribe first crossed the Luapula, Chambezi and Luangwa rivers; but then they turned back and again crossed the Chambezi River further north, and finally settled on the banks of the Karungu River, nine kilometers (five and a half miles) north of the present-day missionary settlement of Malole. There they came upon a related tribe by the name of Babemba. The Baluba [728]
superseded them entirely by appropriating their territory and bringing them into subjection. The two races soon merged. The Baluba ceased to be Baluba and were henceforth called Babemba. [101]

Since their exodus from Baluba, the Babemba have had about 175
thirty kings, each with his history—and a glorious history at that. [643]
The most illustrious page in their history describes their wars with the invading hordes of the Baangonis of Zulu origin. While all the neighboring tribes yielded and paid tribute to the Baangoni, the Babemba gloriously withstood the terrible assaults of the formidable enemy. The war lasted for ten years (from 1860 to 210/1870). Finally, in the course of a decisive battle the Babemba won complete victory. Sungadiaba, the great Mungoni chieftain, died from grief over this defeat. His army was completely disorganized, and the